

- Unemployment rate in BC rises to 8.5% in November as employment drops 0.1%
- Investment in residential construction up 16.7% in third quarter as BC follows national trend
- Four in ten marriages end in divorce in BC before the 30th wedding anniversary

Labour Force

- British Columbia's unemployment rate continued to rise in November reaching 8.5% (seasonally adjusted). The jobless rate has been climbing since August when it stood at 7.8%. The unemployment rate growth last month was due to a 0.1% increase in the labour force coupled with a marginal decrease (-0.1%) in employment.

The Canadian unemployment rate fell to 7.5% in November as employment growth (+0.3%) outpaced a 0.2% increase in the size of the labour force. Alberta's unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points giving it the lowest rate of the provinces (5.3%).

Source: Statistics Canada

- Public sector employment in BC fell 1.2% in November while the number of private sector jobs edged down 0.1%. This marks the third consecutive monthly decrease in private sector employment. After a 2.3% increase in October, self-employment continued to expand (0.7%) in November. Part-time workers bore the brunt of the job losses as the number of part-time positions fell 1.5%. Full-time employment was up 0.3%. Men (-0.6%) saw their employment numbers drop while women (+0.4%) experienced a rise.

Source: Statistics Canada

- The number of jobs in the goods sector shrank (-0.6%), as employment fell in most industries. The exceptions were utilities (+7.9%) and manufacturing (+2.0%) where employment bounced back after dropping in October. There was no net change in employment on the service side. Public administration felt the biggest decline (-3.7%) while

information, culture and recreation (+6.1%) had the largest increase. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- Cariboo (10.7%, 3-month moving average), North Coast/Nechako (10.7%), and Kootenay (10.4%) all experienced double digit unemployment rates in November. Vancouver Island/Coast (7.5%) and Thompson/Okanagan (7.5%) had the lowest rates among the regions. The unemployment rate in Victoria (6.5%) continued its decline through November, while the Vancouver rate (7.7%) increased again. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- The help-wanted index (1996=100) for BC decreased 3.5% in November to 87.1 (seasonally adjusted and smoothed). Declines were seen in all provinces through November, with Prince Edward Island (-6.1%) having the largest fall. The smaller drops in Quebec (-2.1%) and Ontario (-2.2%) greatly influenced the national average (-2.2%) which fell to 118.2. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Housing

- Investment in residential construction climbed 16.7% in BC during the third quarter compared to the same period of 2001. A strong third quarter performance was experienced across the nation as housing shortages boosted building activity. Nationally, spending was up 23.6%, the highest increase since the third quarter of 1987. With the exception of New Brunswick, where investment stayed about the same, all provinces and territories posted increases. Quebec saw the largest increase among the provinces (+35.8%) followed by Saskatchewan (+30.0%). British Columbia (+16.7%) had

Did you know....

Over half (53%) of the total primary energy produced in Canada in 2001 went to the United States

amongst the weakest growth of the provinces.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities rose 6.4% (seasonally adjusted) in October.** Residential permits increased 8.7% while planned spending on non-residential projects inched up 1.2%. Values rose in Vancouver (+21.2%) but dropped sharply in Victoria (-40.0%). The national value of building permits expanded 6.9% primarily because of growth in non-residential permits (+10.9%). Residential permits also increased (+4.8%). Ontario (+54.0%) and New Brunswick (+72.1%) had the biggest jump in the value of non-residential permits, while Saskatchewan (+21.3%) and Manitoba (+19.3%) had the largest increase in the value of residential permits.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC homeowners spent \$24 billion dollars on home repairs and renovations last year, 15.6% more than in 1999.** The average amount spent by BC homeowners was \$2,281. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the expenditures in BC were for contract work, while the rest was for materials. Average spending in the nation ranged from \$1,953 in Saskatchewan to \$3,075 in Ontario.

Source: SC, Catalogue 62-201-X1B

Agriculture

- **Genetically modified (GM) seed was used in 29% of total corn acreage and 24% of soybean acreage in Canada in 2001.** Farmers in Quebec and Ontario have been switching to GM crops as a way to increase yield and production and reduce damage by insects. Since 2000, the percent of total soybean acreage in Quebec seeded with GM seeds has increased from 17% to 29% in 2002. In Ontario the proportion jumped from 18% to 34%. GM crops also benefit the environment as they reduce the need for toxic herbicide and insecticide sprays. While the benefits are clearer, the jury is still out on the costs to consumers as little is known about the food derived from GM seed. In Canada all GM foods must be labelled if the nutritional composition is different from non-GM foods, or if the

foods contain potential allergens.

Source: SC, Catalogue 21-004-X1E, Dec 2002

Divorces

- **Four in ten (40.6%) marriages in British Columbia end in divorce before the 30th wedding anniversary.** This is higher than the national average (37.7%), but still lower than Quebec (47.4%) and Alberta (41.5%). Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest divorce rate in 2000 at 22.9%.

Source: Statistics Canada

Television Viewing

- **Teenagers (aged 12-17) in British Columbia watch less TV than those in the rest of the country.** They watched an average of 10.9 hours of television per week in the fall of 2001, less than in any other province. Teens in Newfoundland watched the most television, averaging 15.8 hours per week. Nationally, the average was 13.1 hours for this age group. In BC, women over the age of 60 spend the most time in front of the tube, watching an average of 34.1 hours of TV each week. This was still less than the 42.9 hours watched by French speaking women over 60 in Quebec, where viewing was the highest in the country. Overall, viewers of all ages in BC watched 20.8 hours of television per week, less than the Canadian average of 21.2, but more than PEI (19.6) and Ontario (20.1). People in Alberta (19.4) watched the least television.

Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0006XPE/XPF

The Nation

- **Canada's heritage institutions experienced expanding memberships, increasing attendance, surging revenues, and higher government grants in 1999.** Attendance reached a record 118.3 million, and operating revenues hit almost \$1.5 billion, growing 12% since 1997. Nature parks had the biggest boost in revenues, up 19.2% to \$337 million.

Source: Statistics Canada

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Canada Looking to Shed Light on Trade with the Dark Continent

International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew is leading a trade and investment mission to Sub-Saharan Africa this month. The Canadian contingent is visiting South Africa, Nigeria and Senegal in an effort to establish new business and trade relationships with Africa. Currently less than half of one percent of Canada's commodity exports end up in Africa. The same is true for British Columbia. This trade mission is designed to increase those numbers, while at the same time fulfilling Prime Minister Chrétien's commitment to support African development.

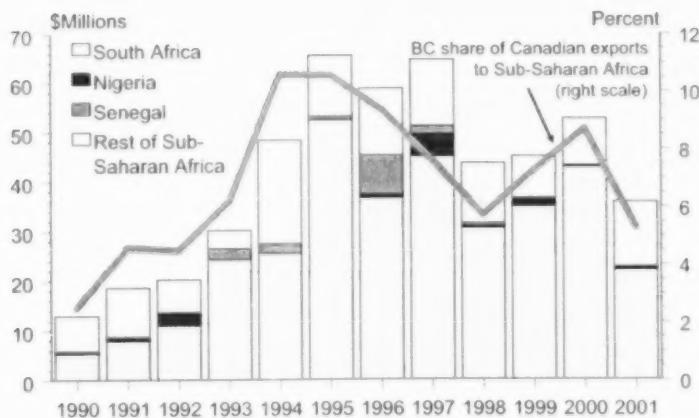
Africa is often overlooked as a potential place for investment opportunities, but according to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, it has been countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that have led the world in economic growth over the last few years. Canadian products and services are well-suited to the needs of Africa, but Canada has relatively little involvement in trade and investment with African countries. Exceptions are in mining exploration and some other services like engineering where Canadian firms have a strong presence.

The most robust economy in Sub-Saharan Africa belongs to South Africa, which is the country with which Canada has the strongest links. Nigeria has an emerging economy and promises to be a leader in the region in years to come. Canadian companies hope to use their established roots in these countries to help penetrate other regions of the continent. For British Columbia, South Africa is by far the most

Sub-Saharan Africa is comprised of all African countries south of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt

"Helping Africa get on its feet is in our interest from the perspective of our common humanity, from the perspective of creating a more prosperous world with new markets, and it is profoundly in our self-interest from the point of view of our own security." – Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

Most of British Columbia's exports to Sub-Saharan Africa are destined for South Africa

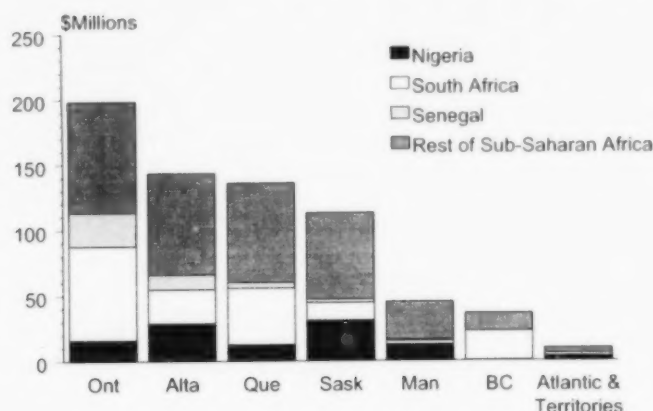


South Africa is the destination of the majority of BC origin commodity exports to Sub-Saharan Africa

significant Sub-Saharan African destination for its exports with, on average, more than two-thirds of BC origin commodity exports to the region destined for that country.

Currently, British Columbia's commodity trade with Sub-Saharan Africa is fairly insignificant, with only \$35.9 million worth exported to that region in 2001. That figure represents just over 5% of all Canadian exports to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001 and ranks British Columbia sixth among the provinces ahead of only the Atlantic Provinces and the Territories. Ontario exported the greatest value of goods to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001, with just under \$200 million in exports.

British Columbia ranked sixth among the provinces for value of exports to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001



BC exported just 5% of Canada's total exports to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001 ranking it sixth among the provinces

Wheat is by far the most significant Canadian export to Sub-Saharan Africa, comprising almost a third of all Canadian exports to that region. Machinery and equipment, particularly related to agriculture, construction and transportation, is another significant export. Much of this originates in Ontario, although British Columbia also exports significant values of machinery and equipment, particularly that associated with the mining industry. One of Ontario's most significant exports is used clothing, presumably donated to aid Africa's poor.

In addition to machinery and equipment, the top exports from British Columbia are sulphur products and pulp. The sulphur products are critical components of many industrial processes in South Africa, such as mining, mineral and metal processing, pulp and paper manufacturing and water treatment. Just under 19% of British Columbia's exports to Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001 were comprised of sulphur products, all of which was destined for South Africa.

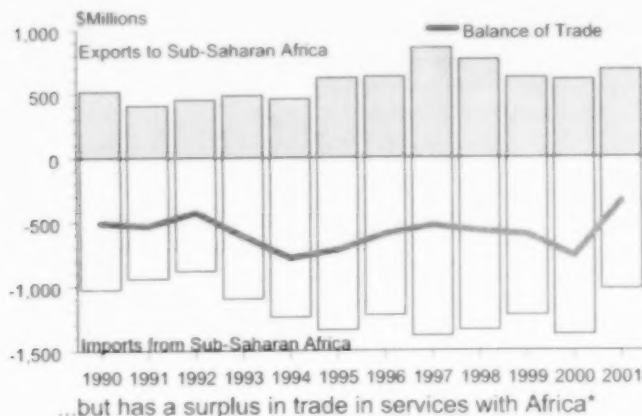
Machinery and equipment, sulphur and pulp are British Columbia's top exports to Sub-Saharan Africa

**2001 Exports to Sub-Saharan Africa
- Selected Commodities -**

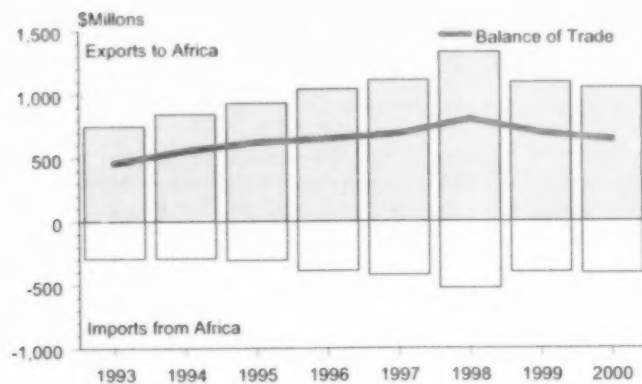
	BC (\$,000)	% of Total	Canada (\$,000)	% of Total	BC Percent of Canadian Exports
SOLID WOOD PRODUCTS	863	2%	10,499	2%	8%
Lumber (softwood)	374	1%	447	0%	84%
Cedar Shakes & Shingles	26	0%	26	0%	100%
Plywood (softwood)	0	0%	23	0%	0%
Selected Value Added Wood Products	312	1%	3,713	1%	8%
Other	150	0%	6,290	1%	2%
PULP AND PAPER PRODUCTS	4,324	12%	6,518	1%	66%
Pulp	4,090	11%	4,090	1%	100%
Newsprint	0	0%	229	0%	0%
Paper, Paperboard - exc. Newsprint	234	1%	1,612	0%	15%
Other	0	0%	586	0%	0%
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD OTHER THAN FISH	3,034	8%	276,836	41%	1%
Fruit and Nuts	0	0%	86	0%	0%
Vegetables	1,461	4%	12,402	2%	12%
Other	1,573	4%	264,347	39%	1%
FISH PRODUCTS	45	0%	2,585	0%	2%
Whole Fish, Fresh, Chld, Froz Exc Salmon	0	0%	1,305	0%	0%
Salmon, Canned, Smoked, Etc.	34	0%	34	0%	100%
Other Fish Products	11	0%	1,246	0%	1%
METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS	0	0%	3,202	0%	0%
Unwrought Aluminum	0	0%	2,579	0%	0%
Other Metallic Mineral Products	0	0%	623	0%	0%
ENERGY PRODUCTS	13	0%	1,058	0%	1%
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	10,580	29%	218,878	32%	5%
Motor Vehicles and Parts	1,942	5%	32,977	5%	6%
Electrical/Electronic/Communications	886	2%	50,838	7%	2%
Other	7,753	22%	135,063	20%	6%
PLASTICS AND ARTICLES OF PLASTIC	22	0%	9,328	1%	0%
APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	13	0%	372	0%	3%
ALL OTHER COMMODITIES	17,035	47%	151,260	22%	11%
GRAND TOTAL	35,931	100%	680,535	100%	5%

Canada imports far more goods from Sub-Saharan Africa than it exports to the region. These goods are comprised mainly of oil and mineral products, but some food products as well. Although Canada has a trade deficit in terms of commodities, this is not the case with regard to trade in services. Canada has a significant surplus in trade in services with Africa (although the data is for all of Africa and not just the Sub-Saharan portion, this surplus almost certainly exists with Sub-Saharan Africa as well). The majority of Canadian imports of services from Africa are related to travel and tourism.

Canada has a commodity trade deficit with Sub-Saharan Africa...



Canada imports more goods from Sub-Saharan Africa than it exports



Canada exports more services to Africa than it imports from the region

*Data for Sub-Saharan Africa in specific is not available

In the last couple of years, the federal government has been embarking on an increasing number of trade missions like this one to Sub-Saharan Africa as it recognises the increased globalisation that is occurring and the need to diversify Canada's trade relationships. The trade missions have been successful in bringing in billions of dollars in new deals and will likely continue to be a staple of Canada's foreign trade policy.

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 also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		
	Jul 1/02	% change on one year ago
BC	4,141.3	1.0
Canada	31,414.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2001 Revised	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	130,859	1.2
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	123,912	-0.2
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	30,252	-1.1
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	19,513	1.2
TRADE (\$ millions)		
		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Sep	2,843	-2.9
Merchandise Exports (seas. adjusted) Sep	2,440	0.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Sep	3,332	-0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
(all items - 1992=100)	Oct '02	12-month avg % change
BC	118.7	1.8
Canada	120.5	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov '02	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,183	0.1
Employed - BC	1,997	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	186	2.8
	Oct '02	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	8.5	8.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.5	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)		
	Nov 27/02	Nov 28/01
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.90	4.60
- 5 year	6.70	6.85
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		
	Nov 27/02	Nov 28/01
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.5747	1.5847
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.6358	0.6311
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov '02	% change on one year ago
BC	678.18	4.2
Canada	653.97	2.5
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca		

Changes to BC at a glance . . .

← Comparison now to previous month

← SA figure now used for exports

← The 12-month average % change is calculated as the change between the sum of latest 12 months of index values and the sum of the previous 12 months of index values.

← Comparison now to previous month

← Comparison now to previous month

Released this week by BC STATS

- Earnings & Employment Trends, Oct. 2002
- Tourism Sector Monitor, November 2002

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, November 2002

